Advisory Council on Heritage Property

Nova Scotia

ANNUAL REPORT

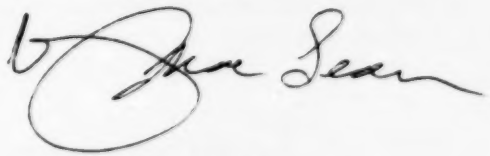
for the fiscal year ended march 31, 1983

To His Honour
The Honourable Alan R. Abraham, C.D.
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Nova Scotia

Sir:

I have the honour to submit herewith, the second annual report of the Advisory Council on Heritage Property, for the fiscal year concluding March 31, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,



Billy Joe MacLean
Minister of Culture,
Recreation and Fitness

The Minister's Advisory Council on Heritage Property was established under the Heritage Property Act of 1980.

The Council advises the Minister responsible for administering the Act respecting: the inclusion of buildings, streetscapes and areas of provincial heritage significance in the Provincial Registry of Heritage Property; application for permission to substantially alter or demolish a provincial heritage property or building; other regulations that affect the attainment of the intent and purpose of this Act; and any other matters conducive to the effective implementation of the intent and purpose of the Act.

History and Administration

The purpose of the Heritage Property Act is to provide for the identification, designation, preservation, protection and rehabilitation of buildings, streetscapes and areas of historical, architectural or cultural value and to encourage their continued use.

The year ending March 31, 1983 marked the second year that the Heritage Property Act was in effect.

The Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness is responsible for the administration of the Heritage Property Act under the direction of the Honourable Billy Joe MacLean.

The administrative work of the Advisory Council is carried out by the staff of the Department's Heritage Unit which consists of an Administrative Officer and one casual research position.

Members of Council

During this fiscal period, three new members were appointed to the Advisory Council, bringing the total number of members to 11. The new members are the Very Reverend E.B.N. Cochran of Mahone Bay, Mr. Gordon Kinsman of Truro and Dr. Raymond MacLean of Antigonish.

Three original members of the Council were reappointed to a two-year term under the direction of their chairman, Commander Evan Petley-Jones of Belleisle. They are Gordon Thompson, Charles MacIntosh and Elizabeth Ross, all of Halifax. Finishing the second year of their term are Louis Stephen, Deputy Minister of Culture, Recreation and Fitness and Advisory Council Vice Chairman; George Piercey of Halifax, Tom Forrestall of Dartmouth, and Dr. Robert Morgan of Sydney.

During the year, six Advisory Council Meetings were held.

Heritage Surveys

In response to a recommendation by the Advisory Council to establish an inventory of provincial heritage properties, several heritage surveys were started in 1981. The surveys, intended to record heritage properties that might be included in the Provincial Registry of Heritage Property, were continued during 1982, providing important documentation on heritage properties which exist in Nova Scotia.

The main part of the survey was carried out during the summer months. More limited research was conducted under a 12-week Winter Employment Program through the early months of 1983.

The surveys have revealed several unique examples of heritage properties in the province. These have now been recorded and identified and may eventually be included in the Provincial Registry of Heritage Properties or the appropriate municipal registry.

Registered Properties

The Provincial Registry recorded its first five properties for protection under the Heritage Property Act during this fiscal year. As of March 31, 1983 several other properties were pending final approval.

Three of the five provincially designated properties are within the Cape Breton area: the Marconi Towers property, Birch Grove, Cape Breton County; the Lyceum Theatre, Sydney; and St. Patrick's Church, the Old Sydney Museum, Sydney. St. John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg, and McCulloch House, Pictou, were also designated.

Provincial Plaques

The design of a plaque to be placed on Provincial Heritage Properties is in the final stages of approval. These plaques will be placed on all Registered Provincial Heritage Properties as soon as possible after registration. This will serve as an outward and visible sign that the property is a unique provincial heritage resource, meriting special protection under the Heritage Property Act.

Municipalities/Counties

It is encouraging to note that the following counties and municipalities have now passed bylaws and have appointed Advisory Committees: Antigonish, District of Barrington, Halifax County, Inverness, District of Shelburne, Dartmouth, Halifax City, Amherst, Annapolis Royal, Bedford, Bridgewater, Lunenburg, Parrsboro, Pictou, Shelburne, Truro, Wolfville, and Yarmouth.

Conclusion

The foundation has been laid for the identification, designation and registration of provincially significant heritage properties in this the second year of activity of the Advisory Council.

A great deal of work remains to be done, however. In the future, as in the past, the security of Nova Scotia's heritage lies in the interest and assistance of interested individuals, local heritage societies, and all levels of government — municipal, provincial and federal. The Council is particularly aware of the importance of continuing to educate the general public concerning the significance of heritage matters.